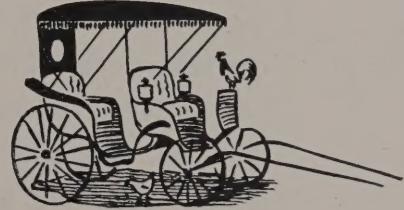


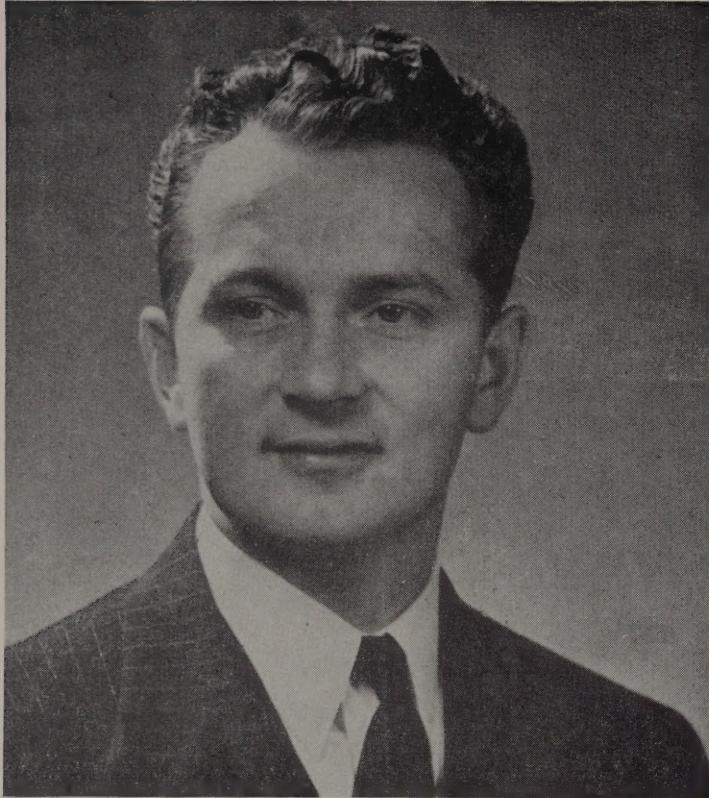
125th ANNIVERSARY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

Our 125th Anniversary IS SUMMERIZED HERE
IN THIS HISTORICAL BOOKLET ALONG WITH THE SPECIAL
PROGRAMS OF A MEMORABLE WEEK. THE STORY OF OUR
STIRRING PAST IS BROUGHT HOME TO US TO INSPIRE US
TO THE BUILDING OF A WORTHY FUTURE. IN YEARS TO
COME MANY OF US WHO ARE NOW LOOKING AT
THESE PAGES WILL TURN TO THEM AGAIN TO
FIND CRYSTALLIZED HERE THE MANY
WAYS IN WHICH GOD HAS BLESSED
OUR CHURCH.





Rev. David H. Lowe

unseen hand that has fashioned it's destiny throughout these one-hundred and twenty-five years.

It is still the same guidance that we seek in this day of unrest and turmoil. Our prayer is that God will make this church a greater lighthouse than ever before in sending out the wonderful Gospel. This is the day that challenges every Christian to go out for Christ and His Church. Our combined effort is needed as we launch out on new projects, and the furtherance of God's Kingdom not only in this community, but to the uttermost parts of the world. By His grace we will remain faithful.

The Pastor's Message

Greetings in the name of Christ:

It gives me great pleasure to greet you on this memorable day. As we gaze back through the annals of our illustrious history we are brought to the realization of the wonderful grace and guidance that God has wrought in our church. We see the

Our 125th Anniversary Program

Wednesday, October 3rd

Dinner

Rev. Marvin Turner

Friday, October 5th

Dinner

Rev. Orville Williams

Saturday, October 6th

Pageant

The Sunday School

Sunday, October 7th, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Gilbert Miles

Sunday, October 7th, 2:00 P.M.

Dr. H. H. Savage

Rev. Gilbert Miles

Dr. E. W. Palmer

Sunday, October 7th, 7:30 P.M.

Dr. E. W. Palmer

Church Officers

Deacon Board

Gordon Way, Chairman	Albert McDonald, Secretary
Harold Andrews	Mrs. George Seitz
Charles Armstrong	Mrs. Irene Schingeck
Nevin Sturman	Mrs. Harold Andrews
Leon Graham	Mrs. Nevin Sturman
Edgar Lind	Mrs. Max Trudeau

Board of Trustees

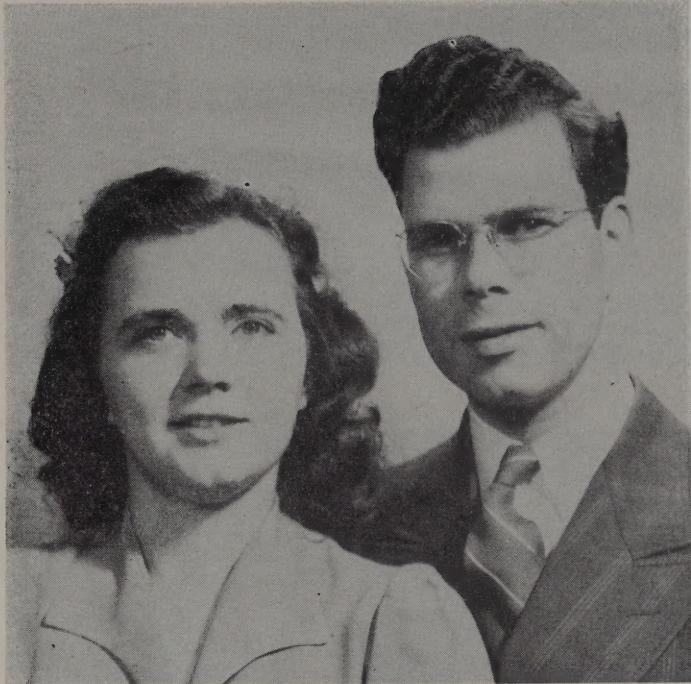
LeRoy Taggart, Chairman	
Herschel Childress	Fred Wilkinson
Don Currier	Richard Erickson

Rev. David Lowe, Pastor
Miss Madeline Brooks, Church Clerk
Mrs. Joe Hamilton, General Treasurer
Mrs. Peter Fairbairn, Benevolent Treasurer
Mrs. Max Trudeau, Financial Treasurer
Mr. Dietrich McFarland, Sunday School Supt.
Mrs. Don Scharchburg, Pianist and Choir Leader
Mr. Harold Andrews, Head Usher
Mrs. Russell Wright, Historian

Our Missionaries

REV. ROBERT and LOIS GREENMAN

**CALLE SAN MARTIN 133
SAN PEDRO DE JUJUY
ARGENTINA**



Bob grew up here in Farmington, and we can remember him as a small boy and on through high school, being active in Church and Sunday School, always one of the faithful young people in his service to God. After graduation from high school, Bob left Farmington for Chicago, where he graduated from Moody Bible Institute and the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. It was while in Chicago that Bob met and married Lois, and together they answered the call of God to serve Him in Argentina, where they have been for the last several years.

Sunday School

Dietrich McFarland, Superintendent

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL is the educational organization of Farmington's First Baptist Church. Our School is organized into Cradle Roll, Nursery, Beginner, Primary, Junior, Intermediate, Young People, and Adult Departments, meeting every Sunday morning at 11:15 following the worship service of the Church. Our pupils are classified according to their grade in public school.

OUR AIM is to give each pupil a knowledge of the Bible and an experience that will help him to know God and to meet the everyday problems of life. OUR LESSONS are Bible lessons. Each pupil owns an attractive study book published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Every lesson taught is graded to meet the interests and needs of each pupil at his given age.

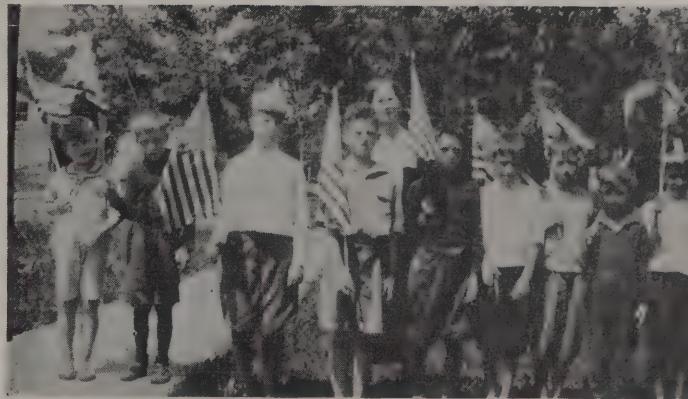
OUR ACTIVITIES include handcraft, parties, seasonal outings and club work for both boys and girls.

OUR TEACHERS are dedicated to the task of winning and training their pupils for Christ. They meet in a monthly Worker's Conference, and enroll periodically in training classes which help them to do their work more efficiently.

OUR EQUIPMENT includes an educational unit, in addition to the church sanctuary, with separate rooms for classes and departments. Flannelgraph and other modern visual aids including 16mm motion picture equipment, film strip machine, wire recorder and PA system are used. We have a circulating library for use of Church and Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School

Our daily Vacation Bible School has been continuously serving the community since 1923 when it was inauquarted during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Townsend. It has grown from the original small group to 180 which was the enrollment last summer.



First Vacation Bible School 1923

Young People's Groups

Our Young Peoples' group is organized to reach other young people for Christ and for Christian fellowship. We have three groups, "Junior B. Y." for youngsters in grades four through six, "Hi B. Y." for junior high school, and "Senior B. Y." for ninth grade and older. Our Sunday meetings are entirely in the hands of the young people with occasional outside speakers and missionary programs. We also get together for socials and "sing-spirations".

All young people are invited to join one of our groups.

Women's Missionary Society

Mrs. Leon Bury, President

The missionary work is carried on in our church through the two societies, namely—the Lois Greenman Circle and the Alice A. McDonald Circle. Every woman in the church is a potential member and she should feel free to attend the meetings of either of these groups. For those who wish to attend a daytime meeting, the Alice A. McDonald Circle meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:30 with White Cross work, following a pot-luck luncheon at noon, an interesting program completes a satisfactory day.

The Lois Greenman Circle was planned with the idea of making it possible for business women and mothers of small children to be able to attend this group, which meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 o'clock, White Cross work, varied and helpful programs ended by a luncheon combine to make this a most delightful and informative way to spend an evening.

A combined meeting of both circles was planned once a month taking place on the second Thursday at 8 o'clock, feeling that the fellowship of working together unites us all in a better understanding of this vital effort.

Some of our programs include a mending day at the Baptist Children's Home, a visit to the Mary Murray's trailer chapel, interesting visits from foreign and home missionaries.

YOU are urged to attend either of these groups. We Need You!

Men's Club

Mr. George Larry, President



The Men's Club meets on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through May. Dinners are prepared and served by the ladies of the Church. The programs are varied, and have included stirring talks by visiting ministers, special music, and travelogues.

The aim of the Club is to stimulate the men to participate in the activities of the Church. One of their most successful projects was the painting of the entire Church building. All men of the Church and of the community are eligible for membership.

An active program is being planned for the months ahead. Come out and help us put these plans into operation.

Boy Scout Troop 35

Wm. Barnum, Scoutmaster

The first meeting was held October 29, 1945 with 8 boys, 2 leaders, and 3 committeemen. They received their charter February, 1946. Last year LeRoy Paschke received his Eagle Award, highest rank in Scouting. We have several Star Scouts and a number of First Class Scouts. We sent Bob Erickson to the National Jamboree. Our good turns include providing corsages for Gold Star Mothers of our Church on Mother's Day, sending Easter plants to the Rest Home, cleaning the Church basement, making bird feeders and maintaining them. We now have 34 registered Scouts, 3 leaders, and 5 committeemen.

Girl Scout Troop 177

Mrs. Wm. Barnum, Scoutleader

Formerly known as Troop No. 7, we are one of the oldest troops in Farmington. We assumed sponsorship of the Troop on June 10, 1946 with an attendance of 6 girls. By June, 1947 we had a registration of 55 girls, 6 leaders, and 5 committeewomen. The troop was too large for good Scouting so it was divided and we are now sponsoring two troops. This year they went camping at Ludington State Park. Our good turns include filling 23 clothing kits for children overseas, a mitten tree for the Baptist Children's Home with 33 pairs of mittens. We made 100 dolls clothes for the Children's Hospital.

Junior Church

Mrs. Gordon Way, Director

OUR AIM. To train the children in loving, sharing, and doing that they will be better future church members.

SONG. Heavenly Sunshine. Red and Yellow, Black and White, All Are Precious in His Sight.

THEME. We share our money and work for our missionaries. We learn about them, their stations, people, customs, songs and games in Foreign Missions. We learn how our Home Missionaries use train, bus, station-wagon, pickup, trailor, car, horse, the mail and walk to tell of God's love.

CONTRIBUTIONS. We give to any special offering the Church makes. The need is told, discussed, and voted on.

Ministry of Music

Mrs. Don Scharchburg
Director

Good music is a vital part of all church services, creating an atmosphere of praise and worship. Mrs. Don Scharchburg, pianist and director of both the adult and junior choirs, invites all those interested in this end of the worship service, to lend their voices and their talents that our church shall truly "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."



Our 125 Year History

In bringing up to date the history of the First Baptist Church of Farmington, Michigan, let us refresh the readers' minds by delving back into the life of the church and its people 125 years ago. A council meeting convened February 14, 1826 at the home of Robert Wimon, Esqr. and decided to "fellowship us a Church in gospel order". Ten people were covenanted at the formation of the church and these covenant meetings were held the last Saturday of each month preceding their Communion Sunday. After the church was organized during the same year, the meetings of the church were held in the old log school house, located at the corner of 12 Mile and Halsted Road; the West Farmington 4 Fractional School, now a gas station and grocery store operated by Avery Avichouser. In warm weather, they met in the barn of Samuel Mead, situated at the corner of Halsted and Howard Road, now owned by Leo McLean. This was much more convenient for the worshipers to attend service than to travel by oxcart to Pontiac, Michigan, a distance of 15 miles. The Elder Elkana Comstock was called annually and was given \$100 a year, one-third to be in cash, the rest in produce.

As the congregation grew and the membership of the Baptist Church enlarged, it became expedient to secure a more convenient and perma-

inent meeting place. During the year 1835, with prayerful and persistent efforts, they built and dedicated a frame church building. This was located on the Northwest Corner, section 17, which is now the West Farmington Cemetery. Elder Nehemiah Lamb "laboured" with the church from 1833 to 1837. Elder Lamb was the great, great grandfather of our Ray Howard, living on 12 mile and Halsted Road, who, with his wife, served the Church faithfully in various capacities for several years.

During the year 1835 (May 15th to 24th inclusive) the Elders Barrett and E. Weaver held a series of remarkable protracted meetings in the new church. So intensely was the Spirit of the Lord felt that the membership of the Church was increased to more than 100.

"At a Covenant meeting, June 12, 1841, it was resolved that any member who neglects two successive meetings shall be held to give to the Church the reason for such neglect, and for three times, if no reasonable excuse can be made, shall be liable to be disciplined for a breach of Covenant."

During 1847 the land occupied by the Church, located in section 17 of Farmington, containing 56 square rods of ground, more or less, was deeded for the sum of five dollars to Michael Murlatt, Benjamin P. Wixom and Thomas Johns, Trustees of the Baptist Church, as long as it shall be occupied as a site for a house of public worship. After many years of worthwhile service, the old Church building became an undesirable place of meeting because of its remoteness from many of the worshipers' homes and from the central village of Farmington, and so, little by little it fell into disuse and was at last abandoned as a place of worship. The new organization of the Baptist Church, at the village of Farmington, was effected August 19, 1857.

The old church property, of course, reverted back to the original owner of the site, as provided in the deed of 1847.

In 1873, Daniel N. Johns leased this same property to the Baptist Burying Ground Society, of the township of Farmington, for a period of 30 years, to be used expressly in connection with the burial of the dead, in holding funerals and religious meetings. This lease was made upon conditions that the Society repair the old church and keep same in decent repair for holding funerals during the life the lease, otherwise this lease would be null and void and the property revert to the original owner. In 1882 this land was deeded to the trustees of the West Farmington Burial Ground and it was about this time that the Old Church building was sold to Alonzo Sprague, who used it as a barn on his farm. This farm is now owned by John Palacky, 12 Mile Road near Halsted and on the evening of May 4, 1938, 103 years after it was built, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Thus ends the history of our old original church building.

An invitation was issued April 18, 1857, to all those wishing to organize a Baptist Church in Farmington Village to meet at the Presbyterian House. Brother J. H. Rasco was called to the chair. Fifteen names were handed in. The Articles of Faith and Covenant published by the Michigan Baptist State Convention were read and approved. Two were baptised the day following conference, adding two to the original number. Conference for recognition convened August 19, 1857 with Elizah Weaver in the chair. Council approved, accepted and extended the hand of fellowship. Right hand of fellowship extended to delegation consisting of J. H. Rasco, Jacob Loomis and J. M. Adams at Wayne Association convening at Milford, the 21st and 22nd of

October, 1857, Church to be known at the Baptist Church of Farmington Village.

The new church, a frame structure, 28 x 40 ft. costing \$1,680 was built on Shiawassee St., at Farmington Road, (McGee's Hill), October 9, 1861. Elder N. Eastwood was our first Pastor, coming from the Old Baptist Church April 27, 1861, terminating his pastorate with us March 29, 1863. The first Deacon was Isaac Place, who also served as Church Clerk for some time. May 17, 1863 Elder Wm. B. Grow began preaching and was with the church two years. In his book "Eighty-five Years of Life and Labor," he says: "The membership included many of the most influential people of the community, whose character and worth gave stability to the work. Here had labored some of Michigan's best-known ministers among whom were the Lambs (father and son) and the foundations laid by these men were deep and broad and strong. The spiritual condition of the church had been kept at a high point and nearly every family in the neighborhood were religiously inclined." In the fall of 1863 the record gives the first mention of Home Missions, when \$10 was sent. May 28, 1864, 15 members from the old church which had disbanded, united with the village church. October 19, 1864, the Wayne Baptist Association held its annual session of 2 days with the church. The membership at that time was 52. December 30, 1865 Thomas Lamb, son of Nehemiah (who was probably one of the first, if not the very first homeopathic physicians in Michigan), and J. M. Adams, were appointed Deacons. A revival began with the labors of Elder W. B. Northrup in November 1865 who was with the church two years. Somewhere around 1868 during Brother Truman Cary's pastorate, who was ordained in 1869, the home of one of our

members, Mrs. Emma Palmer Warner, deceased widow of Seth A. L. Warner, one of the first pioneers of Farmington, was purchased for a parsonage. The Reverend Mr. Judson D. Perry and wife were the first to occupy it. This building is now the property of and occupied by the Ormond Sisters at 23704 Cass, Farmington.

February 28, 1874 Elder J. Bloomer became Pastor and served 3 years. It was at this time that a reunion was held and letters received from former Pastors J. H. Rasco, William B. Grow, J. S. Boyden, and W. B. Northrup. That year the first full report recorded was sent to the Association at Walled Lake. Quite an important step was taken April 25, 1874 at the Covenant Meeting; the Sisters were invited to organize a "Women's Missionary Circle."

In 1875 a new barn was built at the parsonage and a new Sunday school Library was installed. In 1876 a new organ was purchased partly by the help of Brother Truman Nichols.

The Pulpit in the afternoons of 1877 was supplied for several weeks by Rev. C. D. Gregory and the next year, the Rev. George Crocker served as Pastor. In 1878 Brother T. H. Teall was ordained and served for two years. August 30th of this year, the Evangelical Society was allowed to use our church for three months while their church was being built for \$25 a year rental.

A Sunday School Institute, under the instruction of Brother Hills, Associational Sunday School Superintendent, assisted by Brother Edmunds and others, was held March 10th and 11th, 1879. Delegates from six schools attended. A most remarkable and courageous thing happened during this

month — a lady was asked not to sing in the choir any more, the reason not given! In April the parsonage barn was moved; we know not why or where.

Brother Newkirk had the distinction of being the first one to be baptised in our new baptistry.

The years 1880-81 were crushing years for the Farmington Church. They were cast down but not destroyed. With the assistance of Reverends T. Shafton, D. D. Walden and Howel, they weathered the storm. That was the first time in many years that only a letter went to the Association.

During the year 1884 six members finished their earthly course, and the next year, the last constituent member died.

At the covenant meeting, August 29, 1885, the envelope system was adopted and a collection taken every Sabbath for the Pastor's support. In 1885 the Baptist Society had charge of the dining hall at the Farmington Fair and netted \$44.51 which was turned over to Pastor Marvin and in 1886 \$74 was cleared the same way. During this year a tent was made and socials were held on the church lawn for the same purpose.

It was voted at the February 5, 1887 covenant meeting to allow Mr. Smith the use of the church for his singing school for 10 evenings. In 1889 the church was re-organized under the new state laws; 5 trustees were elected, 2 for one year, two for two years, and one for three years.

In 1890 a kitchen was built on the parsonable, 10 x 22 ft. On July 8, 1892 after the usual covenant meeting, a Women's Missionary Society was re-organized.

In 1892 Elder Boyden closed his faithful services of nearly five years. In his "Memories" he speaks of the Farmington people as the best listeners



to whom he had ever preached, always quick to appreciate good sound thinking, clearness of argument, aptness in illustration and fidelity to truth."

During the summer of 1893 the interior of the church was decorated for the first time and the two aisles were carpeted. During the years that this church joined with other churches in a pastor, the services were in the afternoon only.

For a short period during 1896 we united with the M. E. Church in union meetings one-half of the time in our church and the Pastors DePuis and Tickner having equal charge of the same. The parsonage property was sold in 1896 for \$600.

At the covenant meeting January 27, 1900 it was decided to use the money received from the sale of the parsonage to reseat and modernize the church. The old gallery was removed and a new addition, a vestry was built on the west side connecting with the main building by folding doors. On the rear of this same addition was built a kitchen. The steeple was removed and replaced by a larger tower which was built at the intersection of the new and old buildings. The present entrance was done away with and in its place a large window; this and others were replaced with cathedral glass. New pews, pulpit, double seats, and six choir chairs were installed. The entire cost of the repairs and furnishings was \$1,278. After having been closed from July 8th to November 25, 1900, the building was opened too the public in a re-dedication service Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The service was held by the Pastor. Rev. J. B. Reynolds and the sermon delivered by Rev. C. E. Conley of Detroit, General Secretary of State Missions. During Pastor Reynolds' pastorate revival meetings were held from February 15th to



Rev. J. B. Reynolds

March 10th, every evening except Saturday, also three times on Sunday by Rev. E. S. Wilson of the Chapel Car "Herald of Hope". He was assisted in the musical work by Mr. Truby. As a result of these messages, five people were buried with Christ in baptism by Pastor Reynolds. Rev. Reynolds commenced preaching with us August 1898 and the last recording of his ministry was July 27, 1901.

The Rev. C. W. Lisk, Assistant Editor of the Christian Herald, occupied the pulpit about one year, followed by C. D. Berry, who in connection with the Novi Church, was here about one year. March 25, 1903, the Rev. S. F. Dimmock of Northville, became Pastor, preaching in the afternoons.

Movement was made March 26, 1904 to re-organize the Sunday School; the school to open Sunday, April 3rd at 2 o'clock, and the preaching at 3 o'clock.

During December 1905 a legacy of \$200 was received from the estate of Miss Olive Cook, deceased, who had been a non-resident member since 1899. It was used to install a furnace.

From June 14, 1908, Rev. N. E. Musser was our Pastor for 2 years. During the next year no services were held in the church. September 11, 1911, Brother S. K. Klump, a layman from the First Baptist Church of Pontiac, and W. E. Prouse, a singer, held services for some months.

A special meeting was called January 28, 1913, to transact business. Grant Hudson, of the Baptist State Convention, was present. In view of the fact that the Deacons and Trustees were getting along in years and soon



Rev. E. S. Wilson



First Anniversary of New Sunday

there would be no one to take their places, Mr. Hudson suggested that the property be turned over to the State Convention to be cared for, against the time when the work might be revived. Accepted and supposedly carried out.

Early in the Spring of 1917, the Rev. J. W. Walten of Detroit, took possession of the building and gathered a few people together. The church was kept open until sometime the next winter. During this year the interior of the church was decorated, the Baptistry remodeled and new dressing rooms were built and electric lights installed.

In February, 1920, the Methodist Society was given permission to occupy the church building as their church burned on New Years Day and had possession of same for two years.

Early in March, 1922, the Rev. H. H. Ford of Traverse City, sent by Dr. H. H. Gleiss, of the Detroit Baptist Union, and Grant M. Hudson, Direc-



chool Building February, 1931

tor of the State Convention, came to spy out the land. He preached morning and evening, March 26th and again the following Sabbath followed by evangelistic services during the week. At the first service of the church, Rev. Ford was speaker, Mr. E. P. Bates the singer, Mrs. Minnie Wilber the organist and Mrs. Bates the congregation. Three young people, children of S. R. Turner, were converted as a result of the weeks labor. The candidates asked for baptism, but on examination, it was discovered that the baptistry was gone; how, where, or when no one could say. Messrs. Turner and Bates so quickly and successfully took measures to install a new one and a heating plant that Easter morning, April 16th, Dr. Ford baptised Gordon, Marvin and Mable Turner. It was decided to resuscitate the church on the foundation of a few former members as far as can be ascertained at this time, are as follows: Mrs. M. E. Wilber, Mr. Geo. Clair, Mr. Wm. Harlan, Mrs. Fred Bede and Mrs. McGee Harding and others who signified their intention of join-

ing as soon as their letters could be obtained: Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Bates, Mrs. Elmer Weston, Mr. Gordon Turner, Marvin and Mable Turner, Mrs. Orville Taggart, and Mrs. Gordon Way, and Mr. and Mrs. Seth Turner. The services for recognition and installation were held May 26th with the Rev. Llewellen Brown the presiding officer; sermon by Rev. Robert White, pastor of the Detroit Baptist Union. The State Convention paid the expenses of repairing the church. The roof was reshingled, belfry tower reinforced, and new furnace installed. Dr. Ford stayed with us until September and in the making of repairs and in the many other ways of bringing order out of chaos, his help and advice were invaluable. Rev. George Wittet came for about a month.

January 7th, 1923, the Rev. C. W. Townsend, from Topeka, Ind. became the regular pastor. He appointed Mrs. Orville Taggart as our first Deaconess. During the nearly two years of Mr. Townsend's stay, he conducted two very successful vacation Bible schools, the first one in the church, the second in the high school building. Evangelistic services were held September 30, 1923 for two weeks. Three adults were baptised as a result of Mr. Townsend's labors. The next to officiate as pastor was Dr. R. F. Wilson from Simcoe, Ont. and he was given license to preach and to perform all the ordinances of the church. He resigned September 16th in order to enter the Northern Baptist Seminary for further preparations for the ministry. The beautiful "First Baptist Church" sign was donated by Mr. Elmer Weston.

About the first of October, 1925, Rev. E. W. Palmer from Berlin, Wisc, filled the pulpit.

As Mrs. Minnie Wilber, Historian of the first hundred years of the

Baptist Church of Farmington said, "The history of one hundred years of Church life has been read. The book is closed! But here is a new book with beautifully bright unsullied leaves. What shall we in this new cycle of years write upon its pages? We look forward. We see written upon those pages the deeds of a band of devoted followers of our Lord and Master, holding up this banner of righteousness, that all may see their loyalty and faith in the final triumph of His coming. Paraphrasing the words of Apostle Paul, we will forget those things which are behind, and, reaching forward to those which are before, we will press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

At our annual meeting April 26, 1926, moved and carried that we carry one-half of the pastor's salary which totaled \$1,200.

The growth of the church was so apparent that the need for a new unit was discussed in January 1929. It was deemed necessary to raise a fund of \$2,500 and later in June, the Building Committee was authorized to meet the Bank Officials and negotiate for borrowing \$8,000 to \$9,000 (as deemed necessary) and authorize the contractor to proceed according to contract. The Ground Breaking Ceremony was held in 1929. As the last charter member of the church, Mrs. Minnie Wilber was asked to turn the first shovelful of dirt. September 8, 1929, motion carried that the Deacons and Trustees be authorized to file with the State Department a charter of Incorporation of the Church. Special meeting was called November 7, 1929 dissolving the said organization of Baptist Church and Society of Farmington and to be known as the First Baptist Church of Farmington.

October 2, 1929, our Good Brother John Sim died as result of a fall



Rev. E. W. Palmer



through the floor beams to the basement of the new unit.

February of 1930 the new unit was dedicated.

Meeting called to order, April 22, 1931 for the purposee of taking action on the adoption of a new constitution. Motion made to adopt the Constitution as corrected in its entirety.

\$7,250 was the extent of our indebtedness to the bank. During the year 1933, depression caused the Farmington State Bank to close. Members and friends of the church who had accounts turned their money over to be used by the church and that with \$2,000 loaned us by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, cancelled the mortgage held by the bank. The burning of the mortgage took place August 14, 1933 in the church auditorium.

During the summer of 1934 tent meetings were held on the corner of Grand River and Maple.

A new Baptistry was suggested by Mr. Cecil Kellogg, the blue print drawn by Mr. Albert McDonald; the baptistry and passageway was built by the Men's Fellowship Organization in 1935.

Pastor E. W. Palmer preached his farewell sermon the first Sunday in February 1935, after almost 10 years of fruitful and faithful service. Mrs. Minnie Wilber, charter member, a most devoted servant of the Lord, died November 21, 1935.

Rev. Gilbert A. Miles of Hillsdale, Michigan was called May 1, 1935 and preached his first sermon June 1, 1935. A vote of thanks was given the Farmington School Board for the use of their bus during daily vacation bible school.

September 9, 1936 the church took action to give Brother Fred Ferris,

a student at the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, a license to preach. The church was redecorated September 6, 1936 and the necessary funds raised through the contribution of one dollar by each adult member. The women made drapery for the baptistry and furnished floor covering for the platform. During the years of 1936 and '37 the Board of Education of Farmington allowed us to use a bus for the purpose of bringing boys and girls to Sunday School. We paid for the gas and driver. During that time our attendance went up to 291. The bell which was silent for over 13 years, we again heard after the bell tower had been strengthened. February 3, 1937 Junior Church was officially recognized by the Church.

The World Wide Guild was organized during 1938.

On recommendation of the Trustee Board, March 20, 1940, motion was carried that we dispense with Missionary aid from the Detroit Baptist Association. After receiving this aid for the past 18 years, this is truly a great step forward. We are now able to stand on our own feet and with God's help we will continue to do so.

Tuesday, November 18, 1941, our annual Thanksgiving gathering, dinner, and program. Message brought by Rev. E. W. Palmer. Thrilling sight to see mortgage held by Detroit Baptist Association burned by former Pastor E. W. Palmer and Rev. Gilbert A. Miles. Rev. Miles preached his farewell address November 30th.

Marvin Turner was ordained at Halsey Baptist Church, Clawson, Michigan January 17, 1942. He was one of the early members of the church. During this year the exterior of the church building was painted, the kitchen was redecorated and a new set of dishes purchased by the Women's Organi-



Rev. G. A. Miles

zation. A new furnace was installed in the church building and heaters repaired.

Sunday, March 22, 1942, the Rev. Fred B. Fisher accepted our call and we welcomed him and his wife. April, 1942—church membership 291. November 16, 1942, one of the greatest events in the history of our church took place—our Pastor, Mr. Fisher, was ordained into the ministry. Guest speaker Rev. E. O. Odegard of Chicago, former Pastor E. W. Palmer gave the charge to the candidate; charge to the church by Dr. Henderson of Detroit and Rev. Fred Vine offered the ordination prayer. In September a service flag was dedicated with 14 stars. By April it contained 22 blue ones and one gold one. The latter represented Pvt. Gordon Wilkinson. During this year the church building was newly decorated, floors refinished, a new roof on the entire building, and new carpeting on the church auditorium. Curtains were purchased for the class rooms of the Bible School.

At the annual meeting April 28, 1943 motion was carried that choir robes be purchased from the general fund of the church. September 29, 1943 investigate the advisability of purchasing the brick house on the corner of Shiawassee and Farmington Road to be used as a parsonage.

During 1944 new lighting fixtures were installed in the church auditorium and floors refinished in the Bible School. A beautiful bronze plaque, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Coder, was dedicated to our boys in the armed forces. Rev. Orville Williams of River Rouge, was the speaker at evangelistic services held from November 28 to December 5th. Present church membership 315. Leo Bedson killed in action in Franc, July 7, 1944. During this year the Advisory Board recommended that Mrs. Donald Scharchburg be ac-



Rev. F. B. Fisher

cepted as our Pianist and Choir Director.

The second quarterly business meeting October 31, 1945 was held in connection with a banquet in honor of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Bates' 50th wedding anniversary; business followed, terminating in a social. Ordination service was held at our church December 3, 1945 for Robert Greenman.

The first Sunday of June, 1946 the time of Sunday morning service was changed from 10:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. It was during this year that Mrs. Paul Miller received official word that her husband had been killed in action. During 1946 the Pastor's salary was raised to \$3,000 a year.

On March 30, 1947 a fee of \$10 was established for the use of the Social Hall for weddings, etc. A very devout and active Christian, Brother E. P. Bates, life Deacon, born May 30, 1866, left his earthly home for his heavenly mansion, July 18, 1947. The parsonage was decorated during this year. Mrs. E. P. (Cora) Bates, a faithful and devoted Christian, born November 11, 1863 departed from this earth November 9, 1947 for her heavenly home.

Rev. Wherrit from Aurora, Ill, conducted Crusade for Christ through evangelism from November 5th to 14th, 1948. At an Advisory Board meeting December 6, 1948 it was recommended to the church that the Pastor's salary be raised to \$65 per week and that the church pay his telephone bill. Rev. Fred B. Fisher allowed to accept invitation as Crusader at First Church in Leslie, February 2nd to 10th, 1949. At an Advisory Board meeting January 19, 1949 recommendation was made that Rev. Fisher be permitted to take on additional work of teaching at the Detroit Bible Institute. The exterior of the church and various Sunday School rooms were painted by the men and the women painted the kitchen.

At the May 3rd, 1950 annual business meeting motion was carried that we purchase the Bell Sound Machine described by Mr. Fischer for \$350. A gas furnace was installed in both the Sanctuary of the Church and the parsonage and a conversion unit in the Educational Unit. Motion supported that we grant the Rev. Fisher a leave of absence because of ill health and resignation accepted in January, 1951.

Dr. Ernest Campbell filled the pulpit four months, beginning December, 1950. During the absence of a Pastor, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Childress took on the work of conducting religious services every Sunday afternoon at the McWilliams' Home and the Glenbrook Hospital, Farmington. Various members of the church have supported this movement by attending services, some preaching, others singing or praying. A vote of appreciation was given our friends the Childress' and their son Jack, for the above meetings and other services rendered.

January 17, 1951 Recruit Robert C. Bedson died in an automobile accident while in Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

April 22nd, 1951 motion carried that the number of Deacons be changed from 5 to 7 and the Deaconesses from 4 to 5. These to be admendments to our Church Constitution.

The Church called Rev. David H. Lowe of Bunker Hill, Indiana, to be our Pastor. We welcome both him and Mrs. Lowe and Dee Ann, Phillip, and Rex. Rev. Lowe commenced preaching as our Pastor, July 1, 1951.

We are very proud of our Youth Choir, organized under the supervision of Mrs. Donald Scharchburg. It has an average attendance of 20 young people and it is an outstanding addition to our evening service. Our vote of

appreciation goes to Mrs. Scharchburg. The Senior and Youth Choirs furnished the Calvary Baptist Church of Dearborn with Christmas music at their invitation.

The Church has given \$4,000 to Missionary Projects during 1950—some of this money goes too Miss Rose Graziano in Alaska, Jennie Reilly in India, George and Lucy Esch in California, Mrs. E. Sheldon Downs, stationed in Assam and the Church partially supports Bob and Lois Greenman in San Pedro de Jujuy at \$1,000 per year and gifts.

This year the Church has purchased an altar rail, 3 platform chairs, pulpit, 6 deacon chairs, communion table and 2 flower stands (all in oak). Also 30 choir chairs, carpeting for the unit stairway and hall, 2 typewriters, vacuum cleaner, bookcase and books to enlarge the library and drapery for the Educational Unit. We have taken in \$571 for a church bus, and around \$300 for an organ. Also an extensive building program is being planned. Our men are now enlarging the parsonage to the extent of two bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

Another twenty-five years of Church life has been unfolded, and so we too, the members of the First Baptist Church of Farmington, like the people on down through our history, lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help, and will forget the things which are behind, and reach forward to those things which are before, pressing on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

